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your point; but, considering the context, I am sorry you were not careful to prevent indefinite surmises by hasty readers. It may be remarked, also, that our librarian would gladly have furnished you still better proof that the book in question was in Texas.

It is my desire merely to explain that I wrote out the book hurriedly and partly from lecture notes made long before, and that the little rhetorical flourish (so acutely identified by you) somehow got incorporated without any consciousness, on my part, of its origin. If you will glance at the foot note on page 78 you will see that I was compelled once to quote: 'From note made long ago; exact reference lost.'

It only remains for me to correct the oversight so foreign to my principles and practice, and to have the *Errata* page changed at once so as to contain the following statement:

On page 92 read *single* quotation marks about the latter part of the last sentence of section 130 (after *accept*), and subjoin the foot note: An arraignment of algebraists on account of their abuses of infinite series, by A. Sandeman (*Pelicotetics*, 1868, Preface, p. 9.), which, though no longer deserved in that regard, is appropriate to widely prevailing ideas of the infinitesimal calculus."

It may be proper to add in conclusion that when I made the notes for my class lectures I had not the remotest intention of ever working up the matter for publication, and that this circumstance (though it would by no means excuse general carelessness) may explain how I accidentally omitted in this instance the citation for a rhetorical phrase that struck my fancy.

Yours respectfully,

ARTHUR LEFEVRE.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, February 17, 1897.

REDUCED RATES OF POSTAGE ON SPECIMENS OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE INTERNA- TIONAL MAILS—AN APPEAL.

UNDER the present regulations of the Universal Postal Union specimens of Natural History are admitted to the mails of the Union only at letter rates—five cents for each half-ounce or fraction thereof.

At the International Congress of Zoology, held at Leyden, Holland, in September, 1895, Dr. Chas. Wardell Stiles, official delegate of

the United States government, offered resolutions, which were subsequently adopted, that the Swiss government be requested, through its delegate to the Congress of Zoology, to propose to the next International Postal Congress an amendment to the regulations thereof whereby specimens of natural history shall be carried in the mails of the Universal Postal Union at the rates for samples of merchandise; that an appeal should be addressed to all the delegates and members of the Congress of Zoology to bring this amendment to the notice of their respective governments, so that those governments should instruct their delegates to the Postal Congress to act favorably upon the same; that copies of these resolutions be sent by the Secretary of the Congress of Zoology to all governments forming part of the Universal Postal Union and which were not represented at the Congress of Zoology.

In accordance with these resolutions Dr. Stiles suggested to the Committee of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, having the subject of postage on natural history specimens in charge, that, although it is probable that the United States government will vote in favor of the proposed amendment, the cause will be helped by the Academy adopting resolutions in favor of this proposed amendment and requesting the Postmaster-General at Washington to instruct our American delegates to vote for the same.

This the Academy has done, but other American scientific bodies should join in the work, adopt similar resolutions and send them to our Postmaster-General that he may know that the students of natural history in the United States eagerly desire such a reduction in postage rates. The next International Postal Congress meets at Washington on the 5th of May next. The purpose of this article is to urge all those who read it to use such means and influence as may be at their command to help in the accomplishment of this end.

For the guidance of those who will aid in the manner suggested, a translation of the original French text of the amendment referred to is as follows:

"Amendment to Article XIX. (samples) 4, of the Regulations of Details and Order.

"5. Objects of natural history, dried or preserved animals and plants, geological specimens, etc., of which the transmission has no commercial interest, and the packing of which conforms to the general conditions concerning packages of samples of merchandise."

If this amendment be adopted by the Postal Congress, specimens of natural history can be sent to countries of the Universal Postal Union at the rate of one cent for every two ounces.

Statements of previous efforts of the Committee on behalf of the same object will be found in *SCIENCE* for November 17, 1893, p. 267, and for January 26, 1894, p. 49.

H. A. PILSBRY,
LEWIS WOOLMAN,
PHILIP P. CALVERT, *Chairman.*

Committee of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

THE LAVOISIER MONUMENT.

FRENCH chemists, as well as physicists, are making an earnest effort to bring about the erection of a monument to perpetuate, in a measure, the memory of the great Lavoisier. They have authorized certain gentlemen in various countries to receive any contributions which non-residents of France may feel disposed to make in behalf of this very laudable undertaking.

The chemists of America fully recognize the services rendered their favorite science by the great French experimenter, and will doubtless be ready to add their mite to bring the proposed monument to an early completion. To facilitate matters the Academy of Sciences of Paris has appointed as its delegate in this country Professor Gustavus Hinrichs, who in turn has called to his aid the following gentlemen, to any one of whom subscriptions may be sent:

Jasper L. Beeson, A. M., Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry in the Audubon Sugar School, Research Chemist for the Louisiana Sugar Experiment Station, etc., New Orleans, Louisiana.

Charles Anthony Goessmann, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Chemistry at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Chemist of the Hatch Experiment Station of the College; Chemist of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, etc., Amherst, Massachusetts.

Eugene W. Hilgard, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Agricultural Chemistry in the University of California, Director of the California Experiment Station, Berkeley, California.

Richard Watson Jones, M. A., LL. D., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi.

John Uri Lloyd, Professor of Chemistry in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, President (1887) of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.

John H. Long, M. S., Sc. D., Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Chemical Laboratories of the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy of Northwestern University, 2421 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

John Ulric Nef, Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Kent Chemical Laboratory of the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

James Marion Pickel, A. M., Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Alabama, University, Alabama.

Paul Schweitzer, Ph. D., Professor of Agricultural Chemistry and Chemist to the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of the State of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

William Simon, Ph. D., M. D., Professor of Chemistry in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, in the Maryland College of Pharmacy and in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, 1348 Block Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Edgar F. Smith, Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry of the University of Pennsylvania, Director of the John Harrison Laboratory of Chemistry; President (for 1895) of the American Chemical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Eugene Allen Smith, Ph. D., State Geologist of Alabama, formerly Professor of Chemistry, now of Mineralogy and Geology in the State University of Alabama, University, Alabama.

Henry Trimble, A. M., Ph. M., Professor of Analytical Chemistry in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Editor of the American Journal of Pharmacy, 145 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Francis Preston Venable, Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina, Secretary (for 1896) of the Chemical Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Gustavus Detlef Hinrichs, M. D., LL. D., Professor of Chemistry St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Delegate of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, for the United States, 3132 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.